



Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 5, 2011

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Hot Weather Boosts Crops

Even though the state was divided on the need for rain, most crop farmers welcomed the sun and hot temperatures last week. Drier weather conditions allowed farmers to finish up first crop hay, cut second crop, cultivate corn, side-dress nitrogen, and apply herbicides and fertilizer. Irrigators were running for longer periods of time in sandy soil areas. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week statewide. Overall, crops were reported as growing well, but were still behind normal. Soil moisture conditions have changed dramatically, from being too wet to getting too dry, which in turn has created a wide variance in crop growth and yields throughout the state.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 80 to 87 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 60 to 64 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in La Crosse and Milwaukee to 0.26 inches in Eau Claire. Growing degree days for corn remain below normal. If you are interested in further weather or vegetation drought response data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>
- http://drought.unl.edu/vegdr/vegdrI_Main.htm?EV

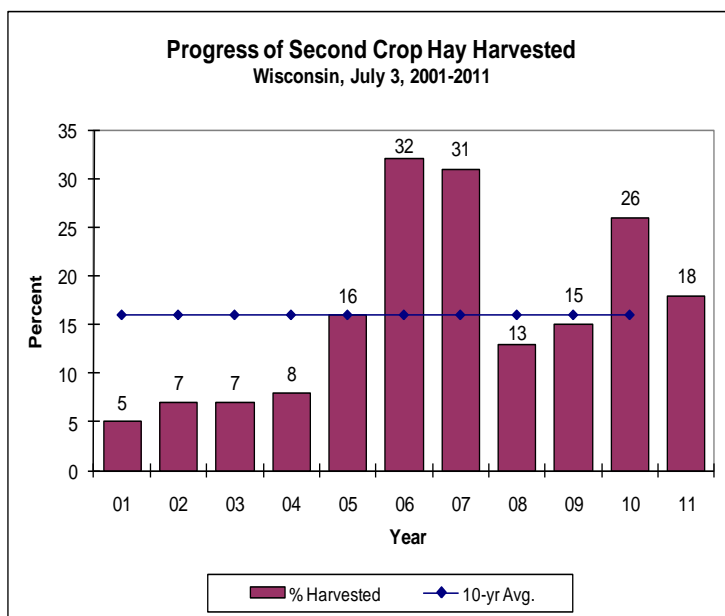
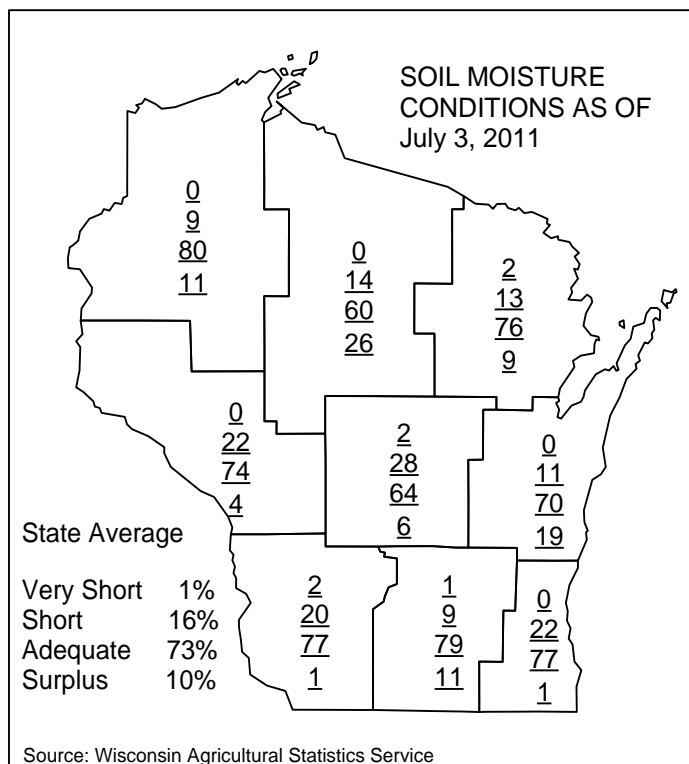
The hot days and warm nights have really increased **corn** growing degree days. Most corn met the knee-high mark by July 4; however, several counties reported a mixed bag on corn growth depending upon field slope, type of soil, and quantity of rain received. Statewide corn height averaged 27 inches, compared to 46 inches last year. Crop consultants were busy in Kewaunee County testing corn fields for nitrogen deficiencies.

Statewide, farmers were busy spraying for weeds in **soybean** fields. Soybeans were reported as 3 percent blooming, compared to 8 percent last year, and the 5-year average of 7 percent. A Calumet County reporter noted that early beans were flowering.

Second crop **hay** has just begun with 18 percent harvested statewide. A Grant County reporter commented that producers are reporting better than expected yields.

Oats was 62 percent headed statewide, compared to 92 percent last year. In Crawford County, oats were reported as looking good and being headed out. A Green County reporter noted oat fields were starting to turn color. Heads on **winter wheat** in Dodge County looked good, with large kernels, and was now turning color.

According to a Door County reporter, the wet weather affected the **cherry** pollination. **Strawberry** season was reported as being excellent in Sauk County, but with mixed reviews in Trempealeau County. Honey bees were brought in last Wednesday as the **cranberry** crop in Oneida County was in full bloom and was expected to be setting by the end of the week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 3, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	4	14	57	24
Soybean	1	3	17	63	16
Oat	1	2	13	66	18
Winter Wheat	1	3	9	53	34
Pasture	0	4	23	60	13

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Average corn height (in.)	18	18	20	27	29	18	37	33	39	27	18	46	39
Oats headed	31	25	65	72	72	41	88	89	77	62	32	92	84
First cutting hay	92	92	95	97	92	97	99	99	99	96	88	93	97
Second cutting hay	8	6	16	18	10	23	25	24	30	18	n.a.	26	23

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Most corn will reach the knee-high mark by July 4th. Second crop Alfalfa is in the mid-bud stage.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Big hay crop, if it can be made. Wet conditions are challenging. Warm temperatures are making the crops grow rapidly.

MARATHON-S.N.: Field conditions have been excellent this week. Row crops are thriving. Herbicide spraying is generally completed. Most of first crop is completed. Farmers in SW Marathon County are working hard to catch up in cropping as they received 4.5 inches of rain two weeks ago. First crop hay is nearing completion. Yield was fair as many farmers suffered alfalfa losses due to wet conditions last fall and this spring. Second crop hay is being harvested on the Farm Technology site. Strawberry beds are open for picking.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Excessive rain received the week before resulted in areas with drowned corn and soybeans. Last week's heat helped the crops significantly. Second crop hay is being harvested.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Strawberries available throughout the county now and the quality and yield are excellent. Fields are finally drying out and a lot of spraying is being done on the corn and soybeans. Second crop alfalfa cutting has started for some as first crop is being completed by others. Corn fields starting to show the effects of compaction and wet field planting conditions from this spring. Side dressing of nitrogen is being done by some to try to overcome some of those effects. Wheat is turning color in a few fields.

PEPIN-G.A.: All crops good.

ST CROIX-D.K.: After all the rain 2 weeks ago, then a dry week, now we need a good rain again.

TREMPEALEAU-K.W.: Farmers trying to finish up applying fertilizer and spraying. Corn took a big leap in growth due to recent moisture and warmer weather. Strawberries are being picked with mixed reviews.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Corn stretching out with arrival of warm weather; lots of side-dressing taking place; pea fields starting to blossom.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Heavy rains early in the week in parts of the county kept farmers out of the fields. Warm temperatures at the end of the week have helped crops catch up. Harvest of second cutting hay/alfalfa has just begun.

KEWAUNEE-A.O.: Fields are finally starting to dry out. Some fields are still being replanted.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: A much needed week of dry weather arrived which allowed for first crop of hay to wrap up for those farms needing to complete that and also allowed for second crop hay to begin for those farms on that schedule.

Lots of spray rigs going in fields to catch up on the weed control which they could not get to the previous couple of weeks due to the wet conditions.

SHEBOYGAN-S.D.: A warm up, finally. Everything looks good. Some second crop hay is being harvested. Most vegetable crops are planted throughout the county. Sunshine and warmth will do wonders now.

GRANT-J.R.: Dry conditions have returned and no significant moisture is in the next 7-day forecast. Second crop hay is underway and producers are reporting better than expected yields on second cutting.

IOWA-K.M.: Crops are looking good in most areas. Corn has grown to about chest height in many fields around the county. Harvest of second crop has also begun in many areas.

DANE-J.K.: All crops look good, some weeds in new seeding.

ROCK-C.H.: Crops all looking well.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Reports of good yields on peas and strawberries. Corn looks outstanding but getting to the point of needed rain. Second crop hay harvest is well underway. Weed control in the soybeans will need attention this week.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 3, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to July 2	Mar. 1 to July 2 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	85	60	96	50	73	4	941	957	0.26	7.14	2.60	17.64	2.82
Green Bay	82	60	89	53	71	3	819	860	0.20	5.13	1.47	19.83	6.61
La Crosse	87	64	99	57	76	4	1074	1086	0.00	8.64	4.37	21.72	6.54
Madison	84	62	91	53	73	4	1031	1062	0.10	3.64	-0.69	15.48	-0.31
Milwaukee	80	62	88	54	71	1	820	n.a.	0.00	3.48	-0.30	19.15	2.36

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. n.a.=not available. T=trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.